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1927 NOTES

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Groton, Mass.

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At the Annual Meeting, American Iris Society, 1927, Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Note Dr. Ayres in pensive attitude at right. Dr. Williams (Stonington) in centre left facing Mrs. Cleveland. Extreme left Dr. Geo. M. Reed surrounded by interested members (female!). Photo by E. A. S. Peckham

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

THE IRIS SOCIETY

A General Meeting of the Iris Society, preceded by a dinner, was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, on Wednesday, the 4th of May, attended by upwards of 40 members and guests.

Mr. F. Kingdon Ward gave a short but very interesting account of his recent visit to China, illustrated by lantern slides. He described the conditions under which he found various Iris species, but said that few, if any of them, were likely to prove distinct from species with which we are already acquainted. The districts he had traversed had been too wet to expect to find any but the moisture-loving species, and even of these he could relate no important finds.

After extending the thanks of the Society to Mr. Kingdon Ward for his entertaining lecture, the President, Mr. Geoffrey Pilkington, announced that the Committee had decided, subject to the approval of the Meeting, to ask Mr. George Yeld to become the first English recipient of the "Foster Memorial Plaque." This is reserved "for special and personal award to anyone contributing to the advance of the genus." The spontaneous enthusiasm with which this announcement was received was sufficient evidence of its popularity. In accepting this tribute to his life's work, Mr. Yeld spoke feelingly of his association with Sir Michael Foster and of the epoch-making influence by him (Foster) on the development of Iris culture in Europe and America. Proud as he was of the honor the Society had conferred upon him, it could have come in no better form than in the excellent portrait in silver of the man upon whom he looked as a master, and of whom he was a humble disciple. "None of us would have done anything had not Sir Michael shown us the way."

Mr. Pilkington then sought the approval of the Meeting for two further awards recommended by the Committee. The influence of Sir Michael, he said, had been world-wide and his name was honored in America and France quite as much as in his own land. It was therefore hoped the Meeting would approve the making of one award in America and another in France. The names suggested

were Mr. J. C. Wister, the President of the American Iris Society, through whom the English Society wished to pay a tribute to the excellent work done by the American organization, and also to many individual workers in the United States, but above all it was desired to recognize Mr. Wister's own indefatigable and enthusiastic work that had made him an outstanding personality amongst American Iris growers. With reference to Mons. Mottett, with whom many members of the Society were familiar, he need only point to his achievements in association with the firm to which he had been for so many years attached—Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieux et Cie—to justify any honor it was within the power of the Society to bestow. The Meeting signified its unanimous approval.

After expressing the gratitude of the Society to Mrs. Phillip Runciman for the handsome challenge Cup she had presented for use at the forthcoming Iris Show, the President called upon Mr. R. W. Wallace to introduce the subject of awards of the Dykes Memorial Medal. With the easy eloquence for which he is so well known, where the subject is one he has at heart, Mr. Wallace proceeded to draw a vivid and inspiring picture of the bonds that were being forged between England, France and America by Iris intercourse. Dykes' name was a household word amongst Iris lovers in all countries. He therefore proposed that a Dykes medal in silver gilt should be offered each year in England, America and France for the purpose for which it was instituted, *i.e.*, "the best new Iris of the year not hitherto in commerce." He pointed out that the result of this would be that in a few years when these new Irises had been distributed, they would eventually come into competition with each other in all three countries, with the result that it would ultimately be possible to select not only the best of each country, but also the best Iris in the world. He looked forward to the day when it would be possible, say 10 years hence, of having 20 "Dykes Medal" Irises for adjudication and the possibility of making a super award of the medal in gold to one of them.

The Meeting having agreed, it was decided to offer one medal each year to the American Iris Society, and the Soc. Nationale Horticole de France, respectively.

After discussing various arrangements for the Show to be held in the R. H. S. Hall, Vincent Square, on June 2nd, the Meeting closed.

EUROPEAN IRIS NOTES—1927

F. Cleveland Morgan
Montreal

One of the first things I did, on reaching London, was to call on Colonel Durham, Secretary of the Royal Hort. Society, to arrange a visit to the Society's Gardens at Wisley. I was met there by the Director, Mr. Chittenden, and shown over the grounds.

An Iris Committee was at work judging the May-flowering group, so I had the pleasure of meeting its members. Besides the Chairman, Sir William Lawrence, there were present Messrs. Yeld, Wallace, Bunyard, Baker and Murrell.

It was too late in the season for the early dwarfs, and too soon for the June Iris, but I picked the following as being the best of the May-flowering group—Blue Boy, Dorothea, Fontarabie, Kurdistan, Prince Victor, Royal and Stamboul—Kharput is always good, but I am told Cretan is even better. Another prize collected by Mr. Dykes, in Crete, is Istraea, a beautiful white which, in addition, is proving a useful parent. Among the yellows I noted "Golden Fleece," a promising seedling originated at Wisley.* A few days later I was to be introduced to two new yellows in this class at the Orpington Nurseries, Mr. Murrell, whose seedlings they are, telling me I was the first to see them in bloom. Mayflower is a self primrose, while the other, still unnamed, is a clear butter yellow without streaks or spots. Zwanenburg (Denis-van Tubergen) belongs to a type I generally dislike, but exception proves the rule and I include it for the sake of its queer gold and silver flowers. This Iris is, of course, a hybrid between Lutescens and Susiana.

It would be absurd, even for a specialist—which I am not—to pass over the other features at Wisley. It has a most attractive club house, where we were hospitably lunched. About it are formal gardens with lily ponds and beyond are the Iris Test Grounds. Then there is a fine Rock Garden, which has been much improved in recent years, and at its foot a reedy pool with Siberian and Japanese Iris around its banks. Alongside is thin woodland where Azaleas and Rhododendrons grow and peaty areas with mossy hummocks, where are found colonies of Primulas, Cypripediums and Meconopsis. I remember in particular one splendid plant of *M. Balleyi*, its

* Listed by W. J. Caparne about 1901. Ed.

spectacular sky-blue flowers carried on a two-foot stalk. This glorious species has proved to be a pernnial and I soon hope to have it established in my own garden. This Bog Garden is quite extensive and I was delighted to see the fat stems of a large colony of *Lilium giganteum* in an open glade though, of course, this lily blooms later in the year.

After a visit to the Heath Gardens, we were taken to the Alpine House. Here we were fascinated by fine pans of many of the rarer Saxifrages and I noticed, too, several Lewisias from the west coast of North America. Not the least interesting feature at Wisley was the immaculately neat nursery where row upon row of seedlings and cuttings made one's mouth water. Fellows of the Society are entitled to share in a distribution of surplus plants and seeds each season.

A few days later my wife and I had the pleasure of dining at Kew with the Director, Dr. Hill. The gardens are so well known that it is unnecessary to enlarge on their beauties, but one thing was worthy of special comment. It was a Sunday evening and great crowds of visitors had come and gone all day—forty thousand, if I am not mistaken—yet the gardens looked clean and fresh—no waste paper—no sign of disorder. This nice appreciation of the difference between liberty and license is not a bad test of the degree of civilization a people have reached.

Chelsea, 1927

How shall I describe Chelsea—its colossal tents—its tiny rock gardens—its clipped yews—its banks of Azaleas—its formal gardens. So you must put together this jig-saw puzzle for yourself. Never shall I forget the surging throngs which literally filled the avenues and tents, nor the amazing variety of exhibits so neatly labeled and artistically arranged. Courteous attendants were there to answer questions and the replies were so intelligent that long talks at each exhibit were the order of the day.

Geo. Jackman and Sons' great circle of superbly flowered Clematis brought a growl of positive discontent. "How the devil do you do it?" "Simple," was the reply. "Limey soil, sufficient moisture, a cool root run, well mulched." So now we have the secret we may try any of the following varieties without misgivings: Mrs. Geo. Jackman, white—Lady Northcliffe, lavender—Lord Neville, dark plum—Nellie Moser, mauve and red bar—Comtesse de Bouchard, rose.

Scarcely have you decided to devote the remainder of your life to the cultivation of Clematis when the towering spikes of Delphinium, shown by Blackmore and Langdon, catch your eye. No! some part of you and the garden must be given up to them. So order R. A. Pilkington, Mrs. Foster Cunliffe, Mrs. Paul Nelke, Sir Douglas Haig, and a dozen other beauties—after you have consulted the price column.

A great bank of Tulips, exhibited by Barr, came next and, if I must name a few, try Alcmene, Amber, Afterglow, Jubilee, Lucifer, The Bishop.

R. Wallace & Company had a series of exhibits, but the beds of Azaleas and Rhododendrons were made doubly attractive by the interplantings of rare and unusual lilies. *L. Duchartrei,* as collected by Farrer, in Thibet, is a very pretty white martagon with black spots. *L. Japonicum* is a soft rose lily which hates lime as does *monadelphum szovitzianum,* a pleasant yellow in color. The deservedly popular Regale, the yellow Hansoni and its orange hybrid Marhan were well shown and Thunbergianum varieties in all shades from the red Atrosanguineum to the pale form called Orange Queen. I also noted a lovely Umbellatum Lily named Golden Fleece.

The Rock Gardens were particularly good. The coveted Sherwood Cup and the Society's Gold Medal for the most meritorious exhibit in the show went to Geo. G. Whitelegg, of Chislehurst. I do not remember a more artistic rendering of a difficult problem, the garden being on the same condensed scale as my description. A miniature tumbling stream gushing from a rocky cleft and cascading over ledges to form a quiet pool surrounded by alpine lawn. The planting was equally good and I was particularly struck with two encrusted Saxifrages, "Foxbrush," and "Catermensis."

Perhaps the most interesting collection of rock plants was shown by Clarence Elliott, of Stevenage. Here I saw *Aquilegia glandulosa* to perfection and with it the fairy-like *A. calcarata. Wahlenbergia pumilio* was hidden under massed cups of purple and *Sedum spathulifolium* in its purple-leaved form proved a rare beauty. *Oxalis enneaphylla rosea, Daphne rupestris grandiflora* and that most spectacular Saxifraga "Tumbling Waters" were all there.

I saw some very beautiful Primulas at Chelsea, shown by Messrs. Oliver & Hunter, many of them quite unknown on the American continent. The giant Cowslip, *P. Florindae,* grows four feet high in its native Thibet. *P. Microdonta* has a lovely sulphur variety

named Alpicola and there was a dark maroon, *P. priontes*, quite new to me. This firm also specializes in the glorious Meconopsis about which we have heard so much in recent years. Though not plants for everybody they are worth any amount of trouble to grow.

I have left the Iris to the last because I shall deal specially with the novelties and recent introductions in describing the Iris Show, at Vincent Square, held on the 2nd of June. I must be content, therefore, with a few general remarks. Undoubtedly the most artistic exhibit was that of Mrs. W. R. Dykes for here the varieties were shown as if growing in a garden—the beds edged with grass borders and cut by gravelled paths. Mrs. Dykes grows her Iris to perfection in her garden near Guildford. It is situated on a sunny hillside and the soil, though fairly heavy, is well mixed with gravel, thereby ensuring perfect drainage. All the growers had fine stands of Iris at Chelsea and I saw many old friends among them, such as splendid groups of Ambassadeur, Lent A. Williamson and Mme. Gaudichau. In the blues I liked Sapphire, Wedgwood and Lady Chas. Allom. I heard Bliss's recent seedling "Gabriel" highly praised but did not see it. In the lilac shades I admired Asia and Cluny and for those who can grow it there is Mlle. Schwartz. In the rose pinks, Aphrodite still stands at the top of the list because of its good branching habit and color. But how changeable these pinks are, altering with sun, shade, artificial light and even perhaps with soil and season. Anyway there is plenty of room for Dream, which is a softer rose and more tender in tone. Susan Bliss is vigorous and good, and though Rene Denis has more yellow in it, it is still a candidate for this color group. I had a good look at Mrs. Marion Cran but cannot forgive its poorly branched weedy stalks nor its badly pinched falls. For a review of the yellow Iris I must refer to my notes on the "Iris Show" as past standards have been altered by the appearance of certain new comers there discussed.

I have been watching, in recent years, some of the smaller types as plants for the front of the border with grace and beauty of form to offset mere size of flower. I append a list in the hope that they will not be overlooked in the competition for size of bloom with "Shows" tend to unduly stimulate. Amber (Dykes), a fine new yellow; Ariel (Murrell), a lovely pale blue; Athene (Sturtevant), milk white; Aquamarine and Sapphire (Dykes), which Mr. Murrell advises growing side by side; Corrida (Millet), blue violet; Mystic (Bliss), a fine white which will replace the good old Mrs. H. Darwin.

I would include White Knight for the sake of its white beard and Dawn (Yeld) for its soft ivory blooms, while Fairy (Kennicott) is a charming little Plicata. In pleading for these I must not overlook the other Iris families such as the beautiful Siberians—Snow Queen, Blue King, Emperor, Red Emperor, Perry's Blue, to mention but a few. Perry has done much to popularize the Chinese and California Iris and such species and their hybrids as Chrysographes, Bulleyana, Wilsoni, Tenax, Hartwegii, etc., are surely worthy of a trial at any rate.

I saw for the first time the little Evansia Iris Watsoni. It has the same charm as the rest of its family except that the color, a dull purple, is a trifle dingy. I envy those who live in a sufficiently mild climate to succeed with its cousin, *I. Japonica*; I have seen it doing well in Bermuda and imagine it might grow around Washington and in California, but alas it is not for me. Even the larger *I. tectorum* rarely blooms but teases by surviving the winter. Fortunately *I. gracilipes* and *cristata* are perfectly hardy in Montreal.

But I am straying from Chelsea—the great show is over and I must sharpen both pencil and wits for Vincent Square.

This proved to be of exceptional interest. In the first place it was the first official show of the English Iris Society and the American Iris Society had shown its interest by offering a silver medal. It, together with the first prize for its class, was won by Mr. G. L. Pilkington.

The hall was well filled and the quality of the blooms exceedingly high considering the long spring drought which had tended to shorten stalks and retard normal development. I had an opportunity of meeting and talking with most of the principal breeders and growers and of discussing with them their future aims and past productions, some of which I will now briefly review.

Mrs. Dykes showed a fine collection of her late husband's seedlings, some of which had not been seen before. Perhaps the one which called for most comment was named "Zaharoon," a curious mixture of biscuit and gold which looked extremely well staged against a black background. "Cloda," a bluish mother-of-pearl in color, and "Britoness," a good ivory, were worthy of note. It was in the yellows, however, that the greatest advance had been made. "Amber" is a fine yellow, not overlarge, but a splendid grower and a decided advance on Shekinah, of which it is a seedling.

W. R. Dykes was not exhibited but judging from a water color drawing made by Mrs. Dykes from the plant itself, it is by far the

best yellow yet introduced. The flower measures well over six inches and is of fine form and texture.

Perry had a bronze-crimson seedling, as yet unnamed, which was rich in color and, if rumors are correct, he has a very fine white to introduce—a giant in size. Mrs. Robert Emmet is another good white of Perry's and I was much struck with the beauty of big clumps of Mestor and of Mrs. H. F. Bowles.

Mr. Perry's work among the Chinese and California groups has yielded further results and this year he is showing a new hybrid between Chrysographes and Douglasi. This he calls "Margot Holmes," much resembling in its coloring a deep rose Tenax.

I had an interesting talk with Mr. Bliss, who is at present working for a white Dominion. He has also partially succeeded but is confident he is on the highroad to success. He also showed me a seedling (under number W. 109) which may prove the forerunner of a new strain. Here the branching is in two planes in place of the usual one, giving more room for the individual blooms. Speaking of Bliss's seedlings I saw a stalk of Bruno with eight fine blooms out at one time—it is certainly one of his best.

Sir Arthur Hort is sure there is still work to be done in Blue Iris. Two of his seedlings were particularly good. "La Pucelle" is a dark blue self of great intensity and though the flower is not large it has 'style' about it. The other is unnamed, a large flower of soft blue with fine arched standards of crimped silk.

There was a good white with yellow throat called "My Own," of Captain Troop's, apparently a seedling of Miss Willmott.

Mr. Bunyard, of the Royal Nurseries, Maidstone, had a red plicate named 'Castor' and Mr. G. P. Baker exhibited several promising seedlings. Mr. Yeld's "Sir Michael," said to be his finest production, I did not see nor Bliss's "Grace Sturtevant." This reminds me that I was tremendously taken with Miss Sturtevant's "Rialgar," the rich golden standards having a luminosity that puts it in the front rank of the Variegatas. I saw it alongside of "Flaming Sword" and "Argynis," where it not only held its own but surpassed them. It is true the charm lies almost entirely in its standards but I will not be happy till I have a good patch to feast my eyes on.

A number of exhibitors were showing Chasseur and I like it in spite of the brownish streaks that sometimes appear on its falls. I also starred the following French Iris: Mons. Brun, Mons.

Cornuault, Micheline Charraire. This last is a giant which Mr. Pilkington tells me has reached 5′ 8″ in his garden. Mlle. Cecille Bouscant (Millet) is a magnificent Ricardi hybrid with flowers of a delicate rose flushed with blue. It remains to be seen how hardy it will prove but it is well worth a trial.

Mr. Pilkington also showed a fine spike of Santa Barbara. This, too, is splendid indeed. The great flower has nothing heavy about it and the widely spread falls are beautifully shaped. It is said to be hardier than many of the Mohr seedlings and has survived the past winter in my garden in Montreal.

IRIS EXHIBITIONS—1927

Mrs. J. Edgar Hires, Chairman

Ashland, Virginia

The Ashland Garden Club held its Fourth Annual Flower Show in The Tobacco Warehouse on May 19th, The Silver Cup offered by the Garden Club for the best specimen stalk of Iris in the show was won by Miss Mary McD. Bierne. In 1926 it was won by Mrs. John Fisher. This cup must be won three times, though not necessarily in succession. Mrs. Fisher won the Bronze Medal, scoring the most first prize points in the iris classes. Classes for roses, peonies, artistic arrangements, table decorations and potted plants were well filled. Much interest was shown in Group VI, the children's classes. In the flower arrangement class for children from three to nine years, Conde Bridges Booth won first place, while Julianna Hartsook was second, and Polly Bridges, third. Linda Newman won first prize in the flower arrangement class for children from ten to fifteen, while Louise Ellis took second, and Annie Reeves Goodloe took third. In the miniature gardens Louise Lewis was first; Linda Newman, second, and Caroline Hall Canter, third. H. P. Simpson judged the iris classes.

Belvidere, Illinois

The Belvidere Iris Society held its annual show on June 7–8. Owing to the lateness of the season many of the best irises were not in bloom, but the quality was very fine. Among the outstanding

varieties exhibited were Robert Wallace, Titan, Prairie Gold, Rheintraube, Mme. Gaudichau, Midwest, Prospero, Cecil Minturn, Princess Beatrice, Shekinah, Caterina, Seminole and Queen Caterina. Mr. Burchfield, who judged the show, says the interest shown was very gratifying. The Bronze Medal was won by Mrs. H. A. Gabel, while Mrs. Ed. Slater won the A. I. S. membership offered in Group III.

Berkeley, California

Through the untiring efforts of Prof. Essig as General Chairman, with the cooperation of The College Women's Club, The Floral Society of Alameda County, The Golden Club of Alameda County, The American Iris Society, and several other organizations, an Iris show for northern California was staged at the Berkeley Armory on April 23–24. An unusually large and complete exhibit of the wild flowers of California was staged by The College Women's Club, occupying one half of the exhibition hall. As California is so blessed with wildings, this exhibit alone must have added materially to the beauty of the show. The exhibits of garden flowers were sponsored by The Floral Society and The Garden Club of Alameda County, and as many of the members are enthusiastic iris fans, these clubs united in making the iris the chief attraction of the show. As the season was from two to three weeks late, the number of entries was not as large as in previous shows, but the quality of the exhibits was very fine. Carl Salbach had the largest and best exhibit, showing among other things Santa Barbara, San Gabriel, Purissima, Don Quixote, Lady Lou, Primavera and Soledad. Purissima, which is considered the finest white in California, and Don Quixote, a large blend of subdued Quaker Lady coloring, were the center of interest in this exhibit. Mr. Salbach also showed a number of Regelia, Oncocyclus and hybrids of these. Mrs. Dyer featured the California native irises and novelties of the Sibirian and related beardless groups. Miss Watson also had some very fine specimens of the California native species. E. O. James, H. M. Butterfield, Arthur Cobbledick and Mrs. Shulte were other exhibitors who helped to make the iris division of the show a success with their fine showing of the standard varieties. Though the Bronze Medal was authorized for this show it was not awarded. Certificates of Honorable Mention were given to five of Prof. Essig's seedlings. No. 247A, a very large, rich somewhat crepey blue self, from five to

six feet with unusually large foliage, was rated at 85 per cent. No. 740A, rated at 87½, and No. 799A, rated at 88½, are not described. No. 253F, rated at 90 per cent., deep violet purple (almost a self) of very good color, size and form was given the same rating when judged in the field in 1926. No. 316B, rated at 91 per cent. is a pale blue bicolor. In northern California we have a Seedling Jury, the members of which have practically agreed that no seedling with a rating under 90 per cent. will be introduced, unless of very unusual form and color. The members of this jury are Prof. Essig, Prof. Mitchell, Carl Salbach, H. M. Butterfield and E. O. James. The seedlings will be judged under natural growing conditions in the gardens, and when seedlings of any member of that committee are to be judged, that member automatically drops out.

Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

The first Iris Show given by the Chestnut Hill Garden Club was held on June 7th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Bramwell Baker. The exhibit was staged on three sides of a long piazza and was most effective in the afternoon light. The Garden Club Bronze Medal was awarded to Mrs. F. W. Busk for her exhibit in the class calling for specimen stalks of three varieties. The judges were Miss Grace Sturtevant, Mrs. Thomas Motley, Jr., and T. F. Donahue. The classes were all well filled and much interest was shown by all visitors.

Columbus, Ohio

Owing to the lateness of the season the Iris Show of the Columbus Iris Society, which had been planned for May 21–22, was not held until a week later. The weather at that time was ideal, and the Society staged one of the most successful Iris Shows ever held in that section of the country. The show was held in the Archeological Museum at the Ohio State University, with Sidney B. Mitchell and Mrs. Douglas Pattison as judges. Mr. E. H. Bretschneider was the winner of the Silver Medal, while the Bronze Medal was won by Mrs. J. C. Arbuckle. Isoline, as exhibited by Mrs. E. D. Howard, was the finest specimen stalk in the show, having five blooms and one bud.

Freeport, Illinois

The Fifth Annual Iris Show of the Freeport Garden Club, which was held on June 8th and 9th, was one of the finest I have ever at-

tended. Tiers of narrow shelves had been erected around the sides of the room (like athletic field bleachers) and here were arranged the iris exhibits, while in the center of the floor were the lovely breakfast, luncheon and dinner tables. Mrs. Douglas Pattison's exhibit (non-competitive) was placed at one side of the entrance, and containing as it did very outstanding stalks of the best of the older varieties as well as the recent novelties, proved to be a center of interest for all visitors. Mrs. Pattison had arranged the other irises in large baskets which were most effective, one of the loveliest being a basket of Jacqueline Guillot, a very finished flower of a soft lavender violet. This was considered by many to be one of the outstanding features of the display. Mrs. F. G. Shaible was the winner of the Bronze Medal offered by the Society to the exhibitor scoring the most first prize points. The first prize in the class of fifty distinct varieties was won by R. D. Kuehner, who staged a remarkably fine exhibit. The classes for Artistic Bouquets, Flower Pictures, Window Boxes and Border Planting added much beauty to the show. Some of the varieties which were shown in especially fine form were Leonato, Germaine Perthuis, Souvenir de Loetitia Michaud, Michelline Chairraire, Mme. Henri Cayeux, Swazi, Gold Imperial, Amber, Ophelia, Labor, William Mohr, Mrs. Valerie West, Cardinal, Zulu, Romola, Wild Rose, Dominion, and Asia. Much interest was shown by visitors in a very fine collection of Iris and Peony seedlings which Mr. Jacob Sass, who acted as judge of the Iris Division, had brought from his brother's and his own garden. That iris interest in constantly increasing in the neighborhood of Freeport is shown by the fact that there were nearly twice as many exhibitors as in any previous year, and almost double the attendance of last year.

Goodland, Indiana

Although The Goodland Garden Club has been holding iris shows for several years, this is the first time the American Iris Society has had the honor of cooperating. This year a very beautiful show was staged on May 27–28 in the salesroom of the Goodland Sales Co., the lighting in this room being especially good for such an exhibition. Visitors upon entering through a flower-covered pergola found themselves in a large garden with masses of bloom everywhere. This effect was achieved through having many flower trellises, while the exhibits were placed around the sides of the room, containing the more than two thousand stalks of irises of many

hues, as well as other perennials, added the high lights to the garden picture. A formal garden was arranged in the spacious window. From the trellised entrance one looked down a flagged walk to a bird bath at the center of the cross walks, and from there on to the bird houses at the end of this walk. At one side was a lily pool, upon the rocky banks being planted clumps of irises, daisies and ferns, while at the ending of the flagged walk on the opposite side was placed an inviting seat. The Bronze Medal was awarded to Henry Brook by the judge, W. L. Gumm. The A. I. S. membership offered by the Society to the non-member winning the most points in the novice classes was won by Mrs. J. Frank Kennedy. The Special Sweepstakes offered in the Children's classes was won by Barbara and Julia Thompson. From the number of entries in these classes there must have been keen competition, and it is to be hoped all these children will go on staging as fine exhibits in the coming years. There were several non-competitive exhibits, Mr. Gumm giving further proof of his interest in the show by taking a very fine collection from his home in Remington.

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

On May 31st and June 1st the annual Iris Show was held by The Iris Club, of Harrisburg, in the Public Library Assembly Hall. Pausing at the head of the stairs leading from the main entrance to the floor of the exhibition room visitors were greeted with the picture of a beautiful iris garden, the tall, stately flowers in their gorgeous coloring having been placed on green covered tables, with narrow walks between, while on the stage at one end of the room, effectively placed cedars furnished a background for the irises which "bloomed" in every nook and corner. The song of birds which was heard from among the cedars helped to make the fancy of a garden more complete, while beautiful blooms of Jules Elie peonies, lacy columbines and lovely roses vied with the irises in making the visitors feel they were "knee-deep in June." The Bronze Medal was won by Mrs. J. M. Hursh, of Mechanicsburg, who scored twenty-six first prize points, with Mrs. John E. Fox a close second with twenty-five points. Miss Anne M. Goss won an A. I. S. membership offered to the exhibitor making the best exhibit of correctly named varieties and who had not shown at any previous local iris show. The judges were John C. Wister, Dr. John Scott, H. P. Simpson and E. Fred Rowe.

Indianola, Iowa

A very lovely Iris Show was held at the home of Miss Emma Schooley on May 31st by the Indianola Garden Club. No more charming picture could be imagined than the one made by this exhibit, staged on the lawn near the entrance to the garden. The background of old evergreens, with branches sweeping to the ground, the blooms of hundreds of peonies and roses filling the air with perfume and the song of birds high in the treetops lent a touch of enchantment and furnished an ideal setting for the beauty of the irises. In the class for twenty-five varieties Miss Schooley was awarded first place, with Mrs. H. A. Baer second. Mrs. Baer took first honors in the specimen stalk class with the finest stalk of Caterina I have ever seen exhibited, while Miss Shular's Pallida Dalmatica took second prize. In the artistic classes Mrs. F. C. Sizler was first, with Mrs. Weeks taking second. Mrs. Haw and Mrs. DuMont acted as judges.

Lynchburg, Virginia

On May 17th the Garden Club, of Lynchburg, staged the Annual Flower Show of that city for the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Trade Week Exposition at the Municipal Stadium. Roses, peonies and irises were shown in all their beauty, while the artistic arrangements, table arrangements, miniature gardens, and the flower arrangements, gardens and bird houses shown in the Children's classes again proved that this Garden Club fully deserves its fame for staging beautiful shows. Miss Josephine P. Kinnier was the winner of the Silver Medal, while the Bronze Medal was won by Mrs. Ray Ralph. Mrs. Ralph also won the A. I. S. membership, given to the non-member making the best exhibit in the novice classes. Outstanding specimen stalks were Mother of Pearl with six open blooms; a stalk of Asia, forty-five inches, but with only two open flowers; Edouard Michel, with five blooms, and fine stalks of Delight, Morning Splendor, Mlle. Schwartz, Ambassadeur and Germaine Perthuis. H. L. Simpson and Lee R. Bonnewitz judged the Iris Division, while W. D. Overby, Hon. Wm. F. Gude, and G. W. Peyton judged the other groups.

Montchanin, Delaware

On May 23d The Brandywine Garden Club held its first Iris Show at the home of Mrs. E. Paul duPont. Mrs. duPont says it was

a very small show, but when there were five tables, three by eight feet, crowded with exhibits containing specimen stalks of such irises as Santa Barbara, Magnifica, E. H. Jenkins, Jennett Dean, Princess Beatrice, Isoline, some measuring over forty-eight inches, and several with from nine to ten blooms and buds, it would seem to have been a very creditable "first" show. Mrs. duPont won the Bronze Medal offered by the Society. There were sixteen exhibitors, all the classes being well filled. Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Love were the iris judges and also judged an artistic arrangement of spring flowers, together with Miss Mary Marvel. It is to be hoped this is but the first of annual iris shows which this garden club will hold.

New Rochelle, New York

The auditorium of the Woman's Club presented a scene of great beauty at the opening of the Iris and Spring Flower Show held by the Garden Club, of New Rochelle, and the Garden Section of the Woman's Club on June 2d. The Japanese Tea Garden, which was arranged on the stage, and the masses of evergreens on either side of the steps leading down from this garden to the main floor, formed a colorful background for the beautiful iris blooms, artistically staged on tables arranged in parallel rows through the center of the room. The tops of these tables were covered with lavender crepe paper, while natural colored burlap had been used for the sides. The tables placed around the sides of the auditorium for the exhibits of other spring flowers were covered with the burlap, which proved very effective for the Darwin tulips, aquilegias and other perennials. There were fourteen entries in the class for Dinner Table Arrangements, this exhibit attracting a great deal of attention for the beauty of the display. In the Children's classes the Sweepstakes was awarded to Wilbur Jones for individuality. In the class for specimen stalks of irises grown by the exhibitor, Anson Peckham was awarded first prize; Samuel Hill, second; Robert Anderson, third. In the artistic arrangement class, Betty Cooke won first place; Henry R. Carse, Jr., second; Wilbur Jones, third; Jean Ware, award of merit. Mrs. Wheeler H. Peckham won the Silver Medal, with the most first prize points, and Capt. Louis Schmidt won the Bronze Medal, scoring the second highest number of first prize points. The tri-color ribbon of the Garden Club, of New Rochelle, which was awarded to the best exhibit in the show exclusive of the iris classes, was awarded to Mrs. Newcomb Cleveland for her collec-

tion of Aquilegia. The New Rochelle Garden Club's Certificate of Culture was awarded to Bassi Freres for their exhibit of evergreens and irises. Mrs. Renwick Blauvelt was awarded the American Iris Society membership given for the best collection shown by an exhibitor who had not previously exhibited at a local A. I. S. show. Judges of the Iris classes were John C. Wister, Dr. John W. Scott, Dr. Wylie McL. Ayres, Dr. Geo. M. Reed, J. B. Wallace, Jr., Mrs. Frances Cleveland and Miss Frances McIlvaine.

Omaha, Nebraska

The Fourth Annual Flower Show of The Garden Club, of Omaha, was held on May 27th and 28th in one of the banquet rooms of the Rome Hotel. Walking down the long lobby leading to the exhibition room, filled with the perfume of peonies and roses, one seemed to be approaching a very lovely garden, where all the flowers of May were blooming in profusion. Long tables had been placed on three sides of the room, as well as through the center, the ones used for the iris exhibits being not over eighteen inches high. Windows on two sides of the room gave splendid lighting, and the iris classes were placed directly under these; full value was given to the lovely colors. Jacob Sass won the Silver Medal awarded by the Society to the exhibitor scoring the most first prize points in the Iris Section. The Bronze Medal was awarded to the exhibitor winning the most first prize points in Group 111, the novice section, but as the secretary's report has not yet been received I do not have the name of the winner. Hans Sass, Charles E. Gowe and Howard Judson had very fine exhibits in the open and advanced classes, each receiving several awards. While fine stalks of such varieties as Asia, Cardinal, Leverrier, Mother of Pearl, Mlle. Schwartz, Gold Imperial, and Aphrodite were greatly admired, it was the Sass varieties which were at all times the center of interest, showing that Omaha gardeners fully recognize and appreciate the breeding work being carried on by these two brothers, and the results they are achieving. King Karl, Jubilee, Lona, Prairie Gold, Balduin (No. 122), Caroline E. Stringer, King Tut, Omaha, were but a few of the Sass seedlings shown in the different exhibits. Prairie Gold, undoubtedly the deepest in color of any of the taller yellows, was very fine in mass, while Balduin was the most effective as a specimen stalk. Mrs. DuMont. Mrs. Haw and A. M. Brand judged the iris classes, with the exception of the seedling class, which was judged by C. P. Connell and

Mrs. Hires. Certificates of Honorable Mention were given to two Seedlings entered by John Sass and Hans Sass. Exceptionally fine collections of peonies were shown, Mrs. W. F. White taking first honors. Hans Sass, who is achieving equally as fine results in his peony breeding as in his work with irises, had a very large white seedling of good form and finish on exhibit. Baskets of oriental poppies, the native blue pentstemon and Kolkwitzia Amabilis, a shrub with beautiful pink flowers, on long arching branches, were very effectively staged in one group, showing what pleasing results can be had when a little time and thought is given to placing of exhibits. A very well planned small rock garden had been built by Paul Sick, sedums, saxifrages, dianthus, arenaria, and edelweiss having been used as well as the dwarf irises. Highland Park Garden Club took first honors in the Iris Group exhibited by a Garden Club or Society, the American Legion taking second place. A banquet was held the evening of the 28th and a very fine musical program was rendered by the Bessie Middleton School of Music.

Pasadena and San Diego

In both the Pasadena and San Diego Spring Flower Shows there were a few iris classes, Miss McLemore taking first honors in the iris class at San Diego, while Mrs. Harry Smith took first place in the iris class for private growers in the Pasadena Show. The First Trust and Savings Bank Cup was won by the Southern California Iris Gardens at the Pasadena Show. One of the finest exhibits ever seen in this country was staged at the latter show by the Landscape Department of Howard and Smith, Los Angeles. With a large painting and plant material collected in the Mojave and the Colorado deserts they staged a very novel desert scene, "Springtime on the Desert," which proved to be the leading attraction of this exhibition.

Oskaloosa, Iowa

The Southern Iowa Iris Show, which was held May 26th and 27th in the Nash Garage display room, was the second iris exhibition staged by the Garden Department of the Oskaloosa Woman's Club. The irises were exhibited on very low tables, which is of decided advantage in viewing the tall stalks with their beautiful blooms, and

also tends to give the judges a much better opportunity to study each entry. The local commercial growers, though not competing, arranged beautiful exhibits against the walls, which made very effective backgrounds for the low tables of blooms. Many entries were made in the Artistic Arrangement classes, and a marked increase of interest was noticed in the classes for Apogons. The show was judged by Mrs. O. E. Brownell, of Des Moines, and Mrs. E. A. Haw, of Ottumwa. Many entries were made in the Children's classes. The Bronze Medal was awarded to Mrs. C. C. Orvis. Mrs. Geo. McCarty won the A. I. S. membership offered by the Society to the non-member making the most comprehensive display in the novice group.

Redlands, California

Though Redlands staged a very fine show in 1926, reports received from several sources would indicate that the one held this year on April 28–29 far surpassed it both in size and beauty. Roses, snapdragons in lovely tones, petunias, Transvaal daisies vied with the irises for the attention of the visitors, as they walked down the long arcade where the exhibits had been arranged as in a garden. Clarence G. White again won the Society's Trophy for the most perfect exhibit in the entire show with six spikes of the iris William Mohr. This is the third successive year that Mr. White has won this much coveted honor, and I am sure we all congratulate him. Wouldn't it be nice if he would write an article on growing irises for exhibition for one of the Bulletins? Surely we could all profit from his experience. Dr. Berry won the Silver Medal for the most first prize points in the Iris Division in open competition, while the Bronze Medal was won by Mrs. L. R. Lothrop for the most first prize points in the Amateur Division. Mrs. Lothrop also won the San Bernardino Sun Cup, as winner of the most points in this same division. Dr. Berry was the winner of the Redlands Facts Cup, as winner of the most points in the Iris Open Division. A Certificate of Honorable Mention was awarded to Dr. Berry's Seedling No. 300, an immense spreading pale lavender flower in the same color class as Souvenir de Loetitia Michaud and Mother of Pearl. The A. I. S. membership was won by Edgar R. Fisher. Outstanding varieties in the show were Midwest, Mother of Pearl, Crusader, Edouard Michel, Jennett Dean, Mme. Durrand, Kashmir White, True Charm, Souv. de Loetitia Michaud, Gold Imperial, Mme. Claude Monet, Nancy Orne, Tenebrae, Peau Rouge, Coronado, Pioneer among the

bearded, and Fulva, Cacique, laevigata, ochroleuca, S. notha, tectorum and Emperor among the apogons. In the bulbous Thunderbolt, King of the Blues, Queen Wilhelmina and Leander were shown in fine form. In commenting on the show Dr. Berry mentions the shortage of yellow and variegata pogoniris in the show, but says the newer things in this line grow vastly better under the California conditions than most of the older varieties, and they think another season will see many more entries in these classes. There were 294 entries in the Iris Division and 348 entries in the Rose Section. These figures are interesting, showing as they do with what rapid strides the iris is taking its place as a garden flower for the west coast, where for so many years the rose has been queen of the garden.

Richmond, Virginia

The Spring Flower Show of the James River Garden Club was held May 12–13 in The Womans' Club Auditorium. No more beautiful picture could greet one than the first sight of this large auditorium, with its foyer and the little court on which its eastern doors open, when transformed into a garden of flowers. On the stage was a beautifully planned garden, lovely with its hedges of long-leaf pine, turf-bordered flagstone walks, well-placed statues and benches, forming a perfect setting for the lovely lily pool. This exhibit was the work of Mrs. Ben Smith, and won first place in the class suggesting artistic planting. The main floor of the auditorium had been divided into four divisions, little walks laid between white lattice work fences separating them. A small lily pond occupied the center of the floor, while in each of the enclosed divisions the flowers were arranged according to class. In the foyer a very fine rock garden, arranged by Mrs. John Hayes and Mrs. S. W. Budd, attracted much attention. In the tiny court Mrs. Andrew Christian had planned a very restful garden. There were masses of lilies and hydrangeas, while a tea table, sun dial and a bird bath added much of atmosphere and charm. The iris display was one of the most beautiful exhibits in the show, Mrs. George A. Tower, president of the club, winning the Bronze Medal. Mrs. L. S. Evans won the Silver Cup given to the winner of the most blue ribbons in all classes. Judges in the Iris Division were J. Marion Shull and Lee R. Bonnewitz. Other outstanding exhibits were the artistic arrangements, luncheon and dinner tables, flower pictures, window boxes and the miniature garden. I like especially the classes arranged for

children as given in this schedule. There were two for flower arrangement, one for children from five to ten years of age, and the other from eleven to sixteen years. The first prize in the miniature garden class was won by a boy, Edward Randolph Archer. Rhododendrons, roses, peonies, as well as the irises, were shown in fine form.

Sioux City, Iowa

The Second Annual Iris Show of the Sioux City Garden Club was held on June 3–4, with Hans P. and Jacob Sass acting as judges. Over a thousand stalks of irises were entered by the thirty exhibitors, among them being such varieties as Duke of York, Ambassadeur, Romona, Seminole, Jubilee, Ballerine, Mother of Pearl, Lent A. Williamson, Magnifica, Beau Ideal, Cecil Minturn and Dimity. The Bronze Medal winner was W. S. Snyder with five firsts, giving him a total of thirty-two points. It is interesting to note that Mrs. George Hart, of Omaha, Nebraska, was a prize winner in three classes, as it shows not only keen interest but also that she has learned how to transport irises successfully for some distance. That the exhibition room was crowded on both days of the show, not only by the flower lovers in the city, but for miles around the country, would indicate the iris is very popular in this locality.

Washington, D. C.

The Second Annual Iris Exhibition of The National Capital Dahlia and Iris Society was held in the Patio of the Carlton Hotel on May 24th and 25th. The unique setting of the room, with its narrow arched entrances and upper balcony surrounding three sides of the Patio, proved a most effective background for the glowing beauty of the thousands of iris blooms which filled the tables. The Bronze Medal was awarded to Dr. E. W. Sheets, who scored the most first prize points in the Iris Section. Dr. Sheets also won the Certificate of Merit offered by the American Horticultural Society for the best specimen stalk of iris in the show, with a very fine exhibit of Tenebrae. In the class calling for a group exhibit by a Garden Club or Society, of at least ten varieties of irises, with or without other hardy flowers and foliage to cover at least fifteen square feet, an honorary prize was awarded to the Woodridge Garden Club for a very fine display. Honorable Mention was given to Walter Reed Hospital for displays made in several classes, the exhibits having been received too late to be entered in competition. There were

twelve peony classes in Group VII, most of them having several entries. In these classes the honors seemed quite evenly shared by Mrs. Milton Payne, Dr. W. S. Benedict and Dr. R. J. Haskell. Mrs. John Love, B. Y. Morrison and C. E. Gersdorff judged the iris classes.

York, Pennsylvania

The first Iris Show of the Garden Club of the York County Conservation Society was held on June 1–2 in the lobby of the Citizens Saving and Trust Company. This Garden Club has been holding very successful Spring Flower shows for the past five years, but this is the first time they have staged a show featuring just one flower. Miss Cline, the chairman, reports that it was a very great success, not only artistically, but from an educational standpoint, as interested visitors, diligently using note books and pencils while asking questions of the members of the Garden Club, were to be seen during all the hours of the exhibition. Already plans are under way for a show next year, which we hope will be in cooperation with the Society.

Yardville, New Jersey

A very successful Iris Show was held on May 25th at the Yardville National Bank under the auspices of the bank, and with the cooperation of the Mercer County Gladiolus and Ornamental Plant Society. It is estimated there were over four thousand irises on display, which would indicate unusual interest in a first show. Among the winning varieties in the specimen stalk classes were noted such varieties as Alcazar, Lent A. Williamson, Celeste, Florentina alba, Mme. Chereau, Rhein Nixe, Kochi, Lord of June, Col. Candelot, Flavescens, and Cecil Minturn, showing that the local gardeners are beginning to build up better collections than are often found in the smaller towns. Richard N. Abbott, who acted as judge for this show, says it was the best local show he has attended.

It was a keen disappointment to the gardening public when the plans for the Lexington, Kentucky, Flower Show had to be abandoned owing to the unseasonable weather. The Garden Club, of Lexington, is noted throughout the country for the beauty of its shows, and the members had completed their plans early in the winter for a show which would surpass any previously given. Besides the Iris Section, which is always a main feature, there were classes for annuals; biennials; perennials; collection of green herbs; potted

plants; flower pictures; breakfast, luncheon, dinner and tea tables; flowering shrubs; a Rose Section containing forty classes; Peony Section with twenty-three classes; a section for vegetables and fruit, and one for Window Ledge treatment; also a Professional Division. The schedules were out in February in order that exhibitors might plan their entries, and the date set for May 24th. As the spring advanced it seemed best to change the date to the 17th, owing to the early season, and one which gave promise of an unusual wealth of bloom. The last of April the weather suddenly turned cold, and for two successive nights there were hard freezes, which killed all fruit buds, early irises, the tender new green of shrubs, the foliage on all midseason and late irises, as well as all other perennials. Still it was hoped there would be bloom for the show, though not in the quantity that had been expected, but on May 12th it was decided not to attempt the show this year. Had it been only an iris show, undoubtedly a very successful small show could have been held, as on May 18th Dr. Scott's garden was very lovely, and several others had some very fine irises. Though the Garden Club members were all disappointed, they felt it much better not to attempt to have the show than to have one which did not meet the usual standard. Already plans are under way for the 1928 show, and we will all hope the elements will be more kind to southern gardens next spring.

The iris season just past has been a very trying one for most of the Show Committees, as it was impossible to plan show dates with any feeling of security. While the warm days of March gave promise of an early spring, April and early May, with heavy snows in the midwest, killing frosts in the south and continuous rains in the central and eastern states, made the outlook for shows very dubious. However, the committees were not to be discouraged, and with the loyal support of all the gardeners, made their plans for shows which would equal, if not surpass, any they had previously given. Most of them had to change the original dates, some few advancing them a few days, though in the majority of places the shows had to be held a week later than planned. While many of the reports indicate there were not the quantities of blossoms which had been shown at other times, the quality of the exhibits at all shows more than made up for the lack in numbers. At the shows I attended I was particularly interested in noting not only the high quality of the exhibits, but the interest shown in the newer standard varieties and the novelties by all visitors. That iris enthusiasts are now discard-

ing the older superseded varieties seems to be indicated by the fact that the majority of exhibitors enter only the finest varieties obtainable. It would also seem that more attention is being given to seeing that the exhibits are true to name, and having varieties correctly named in gardens, many show visitors having stalks of bloom with them, hoping to identify them. I feel we should thank not only the Show Committees but also all members of the Garden Clubs for the splendid cooperation they are giving the Society in furthering its aims for the advancement of iris interest. Not only by giving special Iris Shows or prominently featuring irises in their Spring Flower Shows each year, but by giving A. I. S. memberships as awards and through the quality of the irises they grow and exhibit, they are teaching the public to know and appreciate the better irises, and the work being carried on by the Society.

THIRA TRUAX HIRES

REGELIO CYCLUS IRIS IN CANADA

W. E. SAUNDERS

Noting the article in the last BULLETIN, on the subject of Irises, Oncocyclus et al., I thought the members of the Society would be interested to learn that this supposedly difficult section is treated with tremendous success in at least one garden in London, Ontario. About four or five years ago Mr. E. M. S. Dale purchased one root each of about ten varieties of Regelio Cyclus and a few each of Hoogiana and Susiana; and it would have gladdened the heart of any Iris grower who has failed with these things to see the row of them in his garden this year. The poorest doer consisted of about eight roots and ten flowers, while the best one had probably twelve roots and twenty-five flowers.

When I visited Mr. Hoog in Haarlem in 1910 he insisted very strongly on the absolute necessity of drying these things thoroughly in the summer. Theorists sometimes tell us that a frame over the roots will keep them dry enough, but I have tried this and it has failed, and the failure is proved when they begin to grow about the first of September; they ought to be kept until the first or middle of October. This seems a terrific strain on the constitution of any plant but Mr. Dale takes his up in early July, puts them in dry

earth, and keeps them warm and dry all through the months of July, August and September. By then they are thoroughly ripened and instead of being shrivelled they come out fat and plump and ready for business. He then plants them in soil containing lime, bone meal, and sometimes old manure dug in beneath, and I should say that on the best day of this Spring he had a hundred of these glorious and unusual flowers in full beauty. Even Susiana had a flower on a root more than a year old. My own experience is also worthy of comment. I am rather an inferior gardener, and my roots have not been planted in soil specially prepared and enriched with bone meal and lime, and they have not been well cultivated in the Spring, but still I had a number of flowers on the roots I kept dry all last Summer and I am going to do better, being convinced that anyone who looks after these plants and gives them what they ask for will meet with success. Then there is the possible added joy of making crosses between this race and the bearded Iris. If one plants some bearded Irises in an early spot and some Regelio Cyclus in a shaded position, where they will be late, the two will be in bloom together and the work of crossing may readily be done. The possibilities of these crosses intrigues one tremendously when he thinks of the success achieved by M. Denis in Zwanenberg. This is not a very beautiful flower, although it is large, curious and interesting, but its habit of blooming is the impressive thing. No Iris that I have ever seen anywhere comes as near to covering itself with bloom as Zwanenberg does and it is extremely unlikely that others will succeed in producing a flower from this cross that has so little appeal, (and it really is not a very handsome flower), but it is unique, early, hardy, and good multiplier, as well as being the most floriferous Iris I know. I have recently purchased a copy of "Iris Cultives", in French and my limited linguistic powers have not yielded me very much profit from it, but it contains very interesting articles and if some member of the Society to whom French is easy would like to get it, I should be glad to mail it to him.

TO READ OR NOT-TO-READ

Iris in the Little Garden. Ella Porter McKinney. Little and Brown Co., Boston. $1.75.

Mrs. McKinney has written for us a most delightful little book and one that compares most favorably with others of that Little

Garden Series that I have found such pleasant reading. She leads us through the iris season from the early dwarfs of April to the big Japanese of July and as we go we become familiar with her favorites at home in her simple garden. Cristata stretches along a woodland path with flowering dogwoods bending low and masses of Dalmatica and Flavescens give dignity to the broad path leading down among the fruit trees. Hers is the simplest of gardens but here and there tucked away in spots just suited to their needs you may come upon a number of treasures. The scheme of the book is simple, chapters on geographical distribution and history, then the iris procession month by month and finally byways among the "Miffy" sorts, among irises for the South or for the water's edge, into display exhibits and the breeder's garden or the iris arrangements of a hardy garden. And the whole progression is enlivened by detours of experience and side glimpses of new possibilities.

To those of us who know Mrs. McKinney the charm of her book will be no surprise, but it is a charm that cannot disguise the accurate study and keen observation that make the book outstanding on points of detail. There is an unusual thoroughness both to the references and to the personified descriptions of her plants and in addition she has given a quaint slant to her suggestions that is peculiarly her own. One can feel her love for growing things and her consideration of their needs. The garden has been a joy to her and I think that you will find that she has brought much of that joy to you. Than which, I am sure, nothing could give her more pleasure.

It is needless to say that she knows her subject and reveals a breadth of knowledge that I wish were more commonly shared among our enthusiasts for the tall bearded irises.

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The June number of the bi-monthly magazine *Home Acres*, published in Pleasantville, N. Y., and the official organ of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, the Outdoor Association, and the Land Utilization League, carries its first Iris Department with Miss Grace Sturtevant as editor. Unless I am much mistaken this is the first magazine to carry a regular department devoted to irises since the Iris Society started publishing its own bulletins instead of contributing notes to the *Flower Grower*. I am therefore rather interested in the result.

Miss Sturtevant gives us a review of the earlier irises and a rather interesting note on the behavior of cypriana hybrids.

Home Acres has initiated departments on irises, peonies, delphiniums, gladioli, and dahlias, each edited by leaders in their fields. With the devotion that some of the older magazines show to pictures and still more pictures there seems to be a big need of garden notes. The magazine is well printed on good paper and the illustrations particularly well done. Our members would be welcomed both as contributors and as subscribers.

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I am looking forward to the May issue of the Bulletin of the Garden Clubs of Kansas as it was devoted to Irises and the reports are most favorable.

TID-BITS 13TH

An experience from Mrs. Howard Huntington, of New Jersey, but pride may cometh before a fall and I do not advise others to forget that the Bearded Irises need drainage.

"In August, 1923, I bought five fine Irises, Crusader, Princess Beatrice, Alcazar, Mlle. Schwartz, and Souvenir de Mme. Gaudichau, and planted them (in that order, which I thought would give a nice color sequence) in the sunniest bed in my garden. The fact that the bed had settled till it was below the surrounding ground level conveyed no hint of warning to my ignorant mind. Nor had I learned any lesson from the fact that older plants, in a very slightly raised bed, had bloomed well for years. How did my five new beauties behave? Very badly. The first spring, 1924, I had a little good bloom. In 1925, rather better. In 1926, the plants were wretched—I had hardly any bloom at all. (In no season had all five plants bloomed, though they seem to draw lots among themselves as to which varieties should produce flowers and which should rest for a year). Also, in that very poor May and June of 1926, there were many signs of rot. (Or was it Iris borer? I think not. I had burned them over according to rule, and the rhizomes were soft and ill-smelling—not all, but some, especially Crusader). I was disgusted, and said to myself, foolishly enough:

"All right! I have done everything for them. If they want to act that way, they may. But they will simply see that I can do without Irises."

"(A silly boast, wasn't it?) I was too annoyed to work over them—lift, cut, treat, re-plant in fresh soil. Roses were worth

working over, so were peonies, but Irises I wrote down as hopelessly difficult. Besides, I had no empty places to move them into, no fresh soil; and I did have a very deep-seated dislike for the presence of corrosive sublimate anywhere near our dogs.

"One day I was working over some diseased daffodil bulbs—burning the worst, soaking the better in a solution of permanganate of potash. (This garden sometimes strikes me as a hospital! Or is it that my plants have what Mr. Duffy calls Calvinistic tendencies? I thank him for that word, and have adopted it, but I always give him the credit for saying it first). Suddenly I thought:

"I'll give those Irises one last sop of attention, and let them stay till next year. Then if they're still sick—and of course they will be—out they go, and good-bye to the clan!

"I did not bother to measure the p. of p., just made a strong *dark* solution, and doused the plants where they stood.

"This spring of 1927 they started into growth in the usual way, some looking all right, some not, Crusader *awful*. I thought: 'What's the use of waiting? They're hopeless. And I want that place for my new chrysanthemums.' My spading fork and I itched to be at them. But I had promised them a reprieve till bloom-time should give me certainty, and I kept my promise.

"What was the result? I never had such Iris bloom in my life. Every one of the five plants bloomed (this year for the first time there was not one shirker), and everyone bloomed well. Crusader was the least good, but it had 6 stalks of fairly good flowers, their only fault being especially soft texture. Princess Beatrice, Alcazar, Mlle. Schwartz, and Souvenir de Mme. Gaudichau were all fine with respectively 8, 11, 10, and 5 bloom stalks. For weeks that row of plants was a joy to behold, with all the shimmeringly soft colors of a stained glass window.

"They have had one little dose this year, and I mean them to have at least one more. My druggist must wonder why I buy so much permanganate of potash! It goes on everything that looks sick, and so far everything has seemed to like it—(except the poor earth-worms, which harrow my feelings by writhing frantically to the surface in their endeavor to escape).

"Coda: the level of the bed is still beneath that of the surrounding soil."

From a Pennsylvania Letter of May 8th

"Arenaria and cristata are covered with bloom and have been especially lovely during the past two days. Tenuis is looking very

fine and should have bloom. Harbor Lights (Burchfield) is blooming and has nicely flaring falls though they show a few streaks of purple which rather spoil it and I like the color in Phoebus more. A queer season: Zua having a number of blooms with only two standards and Florentina showing many flowers badly streaked with purple."

It is the rare gardener that seems able to enjoy cristata in the perennial border as it will not endure the overhanging growth of huskier and taller perennials but anyone who has seen it in masses will appreciate its possibilities for a garden picture. At the Glen Road Iris Gardens a seventy-five foot bordered path runs along the crest of a gravelly moraine in semi-shade and here cristata seems thoroughly at home with just a mixing of compost with the natural gravel. Through the course of years grape hyacinths (Muscari racemosus) have sown themselves and been replanted in irregular drifts. Forget-me-nots also make dwarfish clumps and Phlox divaricata seems at home. Cristata itself varies from white to many pale tones of lilac and lavender and with the dark spikes of the grape hyacinths, the clear blue of the forget-me-nots and the tones of the phlox the border is delightful. Later a scattering of the peach-leaved bell-flowers in white and lavender lend interest and still later some of the fall blooming chrysanthemums and the native asters. With such a comparatively limited range of material even a choreman can weed with some safety (the poor soil is a distinct advantage in this respect) and with two or three goings-over each season an otherwise hopeless piece of ground has become a picture worth remembering. Incidentally it is another example of fitting plant material to the natural site, an ideal solution of the problems of maintenance and beauty.

From Mrs. S. O. Scudder, California

"Hybridization you may be sure is the avocation of most of your amateur members. 'Fools rush in,' you know, 'where angels fear to tread.' I have a large number of seedlings that will bloom soon for the first time and I must say that I feel almost as responsible as when one time I asked 'Is the baby normal and husky?'—a sort of parental love I bear my seedlings.

"This year I have a fine stand of tall beardless Californian wild irises. In the native habitat it appears to hybridize—there are so many lovely variations—white, pale lilac, cream, pink, and lavender

with varying reticulations. The species seems to invariably bear seed."

The following brief extracts from an article written by Mrs. Scudder for the Garden Club, of Lewiston, Idaho, may strike a responsive chord among you all:

"Near Cairo, a perennially young face, carved in living stone, blinks daily at the rising sun and on her placid brow the Sphinx holds aloft the oldest representation of any flower, the Iris, the flower symbol of Isis, Osiris, and Horus.

"And Moses, to be found, not among the bulrushes but among the stalks of irises!

"Job knew his irises and answers 'No' to the question 'Can the flag live without water?'

"Queen Henrietta Maria, of England, was the first importer of iris into England and procured the red-purple Persian iris and the blue and gold Hungarian for her English garden."

Mr. Wister writes after a visit to the Bronx trial garden "the things which stand out are again Morning Splendor and perhaps next to it Geo. C. Tribolet although the white Chartier and the yellow Alliquippa were also outstanding. Mount Royal was even finer than before and I know of no unintroduced seedling as promising. Otherwise none of the group were particularly noteworthy."

Mr. Mead is registering a seedling of Dejazet × Lent A. under the name of King Midas. The standards are golden buffs suffused with garnet brown, the falls velvety iridescent brown and the whole center of the flower orange lit. Mr. Mitchell also speaks of its beauty and distinction and I shall look forward to seeing King Midas. Dejazet proves a surprisingly good parent when one considers its soft even coloring and unimportant size and height. I have seen many big upstanding seedlings of charming tone and it suggests that perhaps one parent should be volatile in character, its genetic factors ready for union with a stronger outside influence.

"Mrs. J. C. Arbuckle preempts the name Charles Lindbergh (subject to his permission) for a long-tested seedling that Mr. Mead reports as a purest violet-blue. Naturally I look with a jaundiced eye upon any new "violet-blues," however pure they may be and

I only hope it really will prove as fine under trial as its namesake has proved under the burden of his honors.

Usually I reserve confession of errors in registration to the next list but this time I have neglected two new breeders whose long interest in irises deserves a better welcome. Mr. George Spitzer has registered Katharine McFarland which received an H.M. last year and Miss Van Name registers Quinnipiac and Van Cleve, seedlings that I had myself the pleasure of selecting in her garden over a year ago as worthy of garden use.

Mr. Simpson is listing Gamalia (3a), a good thrifty grower that has been a desirable occupant of my garden for some years, and I am also looking forward to his Topazin (100–4), a copper-yellow seedling awarded the H.M. in 1926 by the competent Washington judges.

"Mrs. Hires is most anxious to add to her already large collection of species and obtain Iris Clarkei. I once thought I grew it but have been proved wrong and I am hoping some member can send her one. Her work for the Society assuredly deserves an even greater reward. The following notes are from a delightful letter concerning her recent Western trip.

"Some lovely gardens and very fine irises—also a few very good seedlings—but I think the breeders had all better stop and tread very carefully. I am willing to prophesy that within a very few years we will be having strains of iris seed instead of seedlings, just as we have now in the delphiniums, as everywhere I went iris growers expressed themselves very frankly about the high prices of new things, bought from catalog descriptions which did not measure up to what they expected. The commercial growers are drawing in also. Few in the west feel they are getting value received when most of the new introductions bloom."

I cannot resist an interjection. Is it always the fault of the breeder or the seller and never the fault of the buyer when the buyer is stung? How long would a poor variety be listed if the first purchasers registered their protests in this bulletin and were honest enough not to unload their purchase while the unloading was good. The Society has gingerly issued small black lists; Mr. Wister gives a large black list in his recent book and yet how

tenderly do we tread upon the sensibilities of living breeders, how rarely do we venture to publish our disappointment in a novelty, especially an American novelty. Both as an editor and as Miss Sturtevant's brother it may behoove me to keep a quiet tongue but surely other members need not fear to speak frankly as to their likes and dislikes.

And yet—each of us has a right to personal selection and it takes a host of offerings to satisfy us all. I think it is their cost and not their number that we should berate and in that connection I find from Miss Sturtevant's sales records that the lower the price the smaller the sale of a novelty. Reverie was introduced at $3.00 in 1920, my latest catalog shows a price of $8.00 and as it happens not over a handful of plants were sold for some years. Athene was listed at $3.00 also in 1920 with practically no sales, its price is now down, its rating up. Think of your own purchases. Do you buy after a variety is recommended by a non-grower? Do you compare the descriptions and prices of different growers? Do you stop to think that Dalmatica and Santa Barbara may be described in almost the same words as Tid-bit or Clio or that even the most honest grower may see color variations quite differently than yourself?

It seems to me that there is room for any number of new introductions. Time will weed them out. Wise buyers will buy with care. The beginners can stick to a recommended list with safety. There will always be people who want color and others who want named varieties of high quality. The one can be cheaply obtained, the other you would not value if you did not pay for it. But do not blame the breeder if your judgment does not coincide with his or if you are so gullible as to buy recklessly. I do not intend to be personal but eight years ago one could collect almost all the known irises (a number did and enjoyed the idea of a complete collection). Five years ago this became almost an impossibility and everyone who tried it was out of luck. These belated collectors have overreached themselves. Many are selling their surplus with more or less difficulty but the subject is still a tender one and all their invective is directed at the breeder and none at the commercial grower who sold again. I can consider myself fortunate in that I made my mistakes when opportunities were few and reached the wary state when they were many. A handful of varieties satisfy my yearly need and of that handful there are apt to be a

few innocuous things that hit the spot without any outstanding quality. Take Garnet, Flutter-by, Tintallion, Bluet, a number of Miss Sturtevant's introductions as a matter of fact and I like them more each year. Their rating? Well, perhaps around seventy but certainly not in the nineties and yet I prefer them to Pioneer. Chasseur, Souvenir de Loetitia Michaud or Harmony to pick unusually fine varieties of rather similar coloring.

As to strains: there is a place for them WHEN and IF growers can select sufficiently pure pedigreed seed to give results of a high average and a certain uniformity of color. Miss Sturtevant might do it on Shekinah, Mr. Sass on his plicatas, Mr. Bliss on his Dominions, almost any one on pallidas or cengialtis, but this would hardly satisfy our needs. When strains overrule named varieties the Iris Society will cease, if only because we have no definite named varieties to fight about, no basis for discussion on classification or description—we cannot even be sure that we are talking about the same thing. To talk about an American is rather indefinite but to talk about a named American offers endless possibilities.

Take Mrs. Hires's example of delphiniums. 'The Blackmore and Langdon strain is unusually fine.' We may say 'I like the Vanderbilt strain even better' and there is very little more to say on the subject.

I am sure that if Mrs. Hires were present I should not have held the floor for so long a period and except in the case of Solferino I can second her remarks on the following varieties as far as I have seen them.

"I wouldn't give Sensation, Marouf, Fragonard, Crimson Glow, Yolande, Mrs. Robert Emmet, Solferino, Mrs. Marion Cran, Mme. Henri Cayeux, May Sadler, garden space as I saw them. Marquesette is rather unusual in color value with the falls giving the effect of ribbed silk. This I should rather like to see another year before condemning. Romola stood out wonderfully, in Mr. Boehland's garden for height, being equal to Perry's things, but color same as so many others. I did not see Mrs. Valerie West but Jacob Sass saw it the day before I reached Freeport and says the color is darker than Bruno. I do not think that he is enthusiastic about it. Peerless I thought lacked balance and poise.

"One could go into the Sass gardens and duplicate almost all the newer introductions and they sell these things to garden visitors at $.35–$.50 each and keep only a few of the best to name or to

work with. King Tut is nearer the Connell irises in color value. They have a strain of ruffled varieties that are mighty good in color value, but not as tall as many wish—lovely gold standards, many of them with beautifully blended falls. They had, also, some of Gaudichau substance and coloring as we know it in the East, while out there I would not have recognized it. I think that we will have to have lists made by districts of the varieties which will do well in each and to recommend growers to list only such varieties for their local trade.

"Everyone is looking to the A. I. S. to do something to stop wholesale introductions and not one person with whom I talked but felt every breeder was out for what they could get with the exception of the Sass's who have given away far more than they have sold. (I wonder how many buyers bought from the original breeder and not from a commercial grower.—Ed.)

"The gray lavender (H. Sass) that received an award at Omaha is very lovely, something on the order of Caterina but the falls more drooping as I remember it. The color is very lovely and will be fine for garden effect, but possibly it is not distinct enough from others for introduction. Still it is one I want in preference to many others. Out there it stood 42 inches and held up well—it remains to be seen what it will do here. The ruffled plicata (J. Sass) was fine also though some of the introduced ones seemed to me to have better form. We could not get away from an award, however, even after taking King Karl, Jubilee, Lona, and some others over and comparing them.

"Dr. Ayres at Cincinnati had some lovely dark reds though they still had the purple bloom in them. It seems to me that Mr. Connell has gotten away from the blue or purple in his reds better than anyone else.

"Prairie Gold (Sass) is very fine, best yellow in color that I know and in the west at least better than Gold Imperial. I saw Allies and it stood up very well but is not of a very distinctive color except for the brown tone near the beard.

"I think I want Wedgewood for its mass effect and possibly Romola. Caroline E. Stringer (Sass) and the cross of Caroline × Trojana are both very good and in the garden give the effect of being nearer pink than any pink I know, probably from the undertone of white."

The friends of the late Mr. Frank H. Presby are establishing in the park in Montclair a memorial iris planting to him. A meeting was held at the home of Mrs. F. B. Walther on June 11th to arrange for this planting. The mayor of Montclair acted as chairman of the meeting, which was attended by members of the National Flower Guild, the Garden Club of Montclair, the directors of the Art Museum, and the Board of Park Commission, as well as many friends of Mr. Presby, and arrangements were made for the planting, and after the meeting the park planting was actually begun in the park.

In response to remarks made by Mrs. Walther at the annual meeting of the Iris Society on June 3, a number of our members have sent plants, and they have already nearly 100 varieties planted and hope to plant more during the coming summer. Any members of the Iris Society living there or members who knew Mrs. Presby will undoubtedly wish to send additional plants for this garden. They may be sent to Mrs. F. B. Walther, 474 Upper Mountain Ave., Upper Montclair, N. J.

Notes on Classification from F. X. Schreiner

Classification seems to be much before us now. We have had one set of descriptions and one classification as in Bulletin No. 13, but neither was completed or brought up to present date. That is very vexatious; one rather looks where the latest things fit in than the older ones. I think a classification should be primarily worked out for the point of view of the novice just getting interested in Iris. For him the first outline chart would be of most interest, such as the chart I put out last year. Even if we had to do a little violence to some of the individual members of a group in fitting them in. This key chart should be a simple comprehensive plan or skeleton that could be easily taken in at a glance as a whole and constitute a complete survey of the relationship of the various color groups in the Iris family.

In further developing the classification phase, we could take up a sub-group at a time for elaboration of details as done in Bulletin No. 13, noting the various distinctions. Here our classification would become a description, definitely hooked up with this classification. This elaboration of the first chart would become a permanent standing description. Now, coming back to the first departure from last year's idea, I would make this first key chart limited as to contents. Select, say 300 varieties, as the (*"Iris of To-day"*).

Other names for this chart could be "Harmony" or "Primary" chart. The elimination of the older names meaning non-circulating varieties from this chart would at once bring out in relief the worthwhile varieties, giving us a commanding view of the active field and greater ability to deal with new introductions.

One feature of this official list in classified form would be to introduce the rating principle among them, inserting the society rating for the present, but at the same time adopting a contrasting type arrangement, whereby a first 100 could always be indicated by say bold capitals, the remaining 200 in unshaded capitals, or once more differentiated into a second and third 100. This chart would be overhauled once a year. New introductions that have qualified would be taken in, displaced varieties taken out. This would give a regular field day of discussion.

Now with this working mechanism set up and functioning, we could welcome new introductions as bringing us new things and improvements of weak points in older ones. With a thoroughly organized background we will quickly assign and assimilate or dispose of them. These new varieties are, so to say, introduced to the occupants of a particular group—similarities, improvements, shortcomings, differences noted. On this occasion, the old and new should be discussed humanly, not in dry tables and symbols. We could prevent any group from becoming top heavy. This method would inform hundreds of embryo hybridizers of what already exists in each specialized color and type group and chasten their ardor to launch on a public career their favorite children. This would be more than a dry paper classification but an intelligent functioning organism that keeps the atmosphere clarified and the life flow of the Iris procession regulated. With provisions so just and reasonable that it should invite the cooperation of all interested. I could go on indefinitely by ways that can be explored in this comprehensive principle.

Now, and at least for several years, I would publish a second chart containing all left over varieties arranged in exactly the same manner. This would give those that have older varieties and do not know of the newer ones an opportunity to become informed.

Here there could be left out altogether names of varieties no longer in cultivation, plants the average buyer would not meet in his search through present day catalogs. The presentation of these two charts should still all antagonism, as it removes the appearance

that we arbitrarily decide what should go on a "white list" or a "black list." Everyone could see the evidence. The list of iris on the first chart could be styled "Recommended List" or "Approved List" of the American Iris Society. It could be expanded or contracted from 300 varieties. A firm stand now would likely carry us to clear waters in a few years.

I think one of the obstacles to intelligent regulation of introductions is the money-making mercenary spirit that actuates many these days. For example, an importing grower gets stung on a variety and not always a super-high priced one at that. He feels entitled to keep on offering this at a relatively high price, based on import cost until its lack of merit causes it to sink by its own weight as it becomes better known. This destroys confidence of buyers in the whole situation. Societies usually must be officered by commercial growers. In societies there are two groups or currents, the newcomers and the older well-informed fans. These latter make the most contributions to publicity. Now if there are not plenty of novelties business will lag, so they are accommodating and will give them novelties every year. I doubt if we can really blame them. They are really only responding to an actual demand, and insatiable craving for change, for thrills, for the new prompts this interest. What we must look out for is that this does not react unfavorably on the amateur division.

High prices are simply reflections of high tide interest and demand. If there were no takers, high prices would soon collapse. The payers of high prices are mostly those that again hope to sell to advantage. The experienced collector knows his field, and can protect himself somewhat. It is his class that monopolizes the literature on the subject. Consequently, the novelties of the year or recent introductions receive excessive space in print and beginners get the notion that to get pretty things, they must buy the latest high-priced varieties. This happens at the expense of the fine meritorious older varieties. It is as though we introduced a child at once to a Packard car, instead of letting it start on a lesser plane and enjoy the successive stages upwards yielding a greater sum total of thrills.

Here is where the Society through the instrumentality of a chart like here proposed could come in as a balance wheel restoring to their proper importance the accumulated—good material. There is a large group of entirely new people becoming interested in iris

each year. They should be given the right perspective. I think an unnecessary stress is laid on alphabetical presentation and listing that serves the grower or experienced person looking for quotations on a certain variety. This can be done index-like in every catalog, name and price—but the larger majority would benefit by a presentation along group lines, whites treated collectively, etc. This of course won't allow on different pages of a catalog to refer to several varieties of the same color as the *best in existence*. It also will correct the evil of lifting out a few varieties for special praise when they are not really superior to many other similar varieties. Most of these conditions would seem to yield and be corrected by this general system intelligently developed and applied.

Trial Garden. The Royal Horticultural Society is establishing a Trial Garden in cooperation with The Iris Society and requests plants of American origination. The advantages to the American grower of such a test are clearly apparent. Plants should be sent to Director, R. H. S. Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey, Horsley Station, Southern Railway, England.

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Notice

For information concerning Display Gardens write Mrs. Brewster Hoornebeek, The Maples, Elgin, Ill. Details of the plan are given in No. 18, page 20.

For information concerning the use of lantern slides and syllabus write Mrs. S. B. Waters, Edgecliff Point, Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mrs. J. Edgar Hires, Ardmore, Pa., as Chairman of the Committee on Exhibitions, will henceforth handle all matters concerning local shows. Please notify her of your plans as soon as possible.

Charles E. F. Gersdorff, 1825 N. Capitol St., Washington, D. C., as Chairman of the Committee on Registrations, should receive all catalogs published and all registrations from breeders, including corrections to existing check lists.

Details of the $100.00 Prize offered by Robert Wayman will be found on page 40 of Bulletin No. 15.

Publications available from Science Press Printing Co., Lancaster, Pa.

Checks payable to American Iris Society.

Bulletins of the A. I. S., Nos. 2, 5 (Symposium), 6, 7, 9 (Descriptions), 10 (Irises for the Beginner), 11, 12, 13 (Classification), 14, 15, 16 (Report on Sterility), 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, at $.50 each to members. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 (Check Lists) are practically out of print and available in complete sets only.

Membership List as of December 31, 1925.

Bulletins of the Iris Society (English), No. 1, $.50; No. 2, $1.00; No. 3, $1.00; No. 4, $1.00.

Addisonia, Vol. 9, No. 4. Eight Native Species illustrated, $2.00.

Les Iris Cultives. The Report of the International Conference at Paris, 1922, $1.00.

For the Cornell Extension Bulletin, No. 112, send to N. Y. State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y.

For Farmers Bulletin 1406, Garden Irises, send $.10 to the Superintendent of Public Documents, Washington, D. C.

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* From Bulletin 10, page 60.